Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SCCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

R 060548Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6322

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPAR

RUESTPOXAMENLASSY TRIPOLI 0670

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 1093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YWCI, SA, RP

SUBJ: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER TO LOOK INTO PHILIPPINE-

MOSLEM PROBLEM

1. SAUDI ARABIA OPPOSED THE PROPOSALMADE IN LAHORE BY LIBYAN PREMIER QADAFFI FOR A JIHAD AGAINST THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE "OPPRESSED MOSLEM MINORITY" IN MINDANAO. THE SAUDI POSITION, ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF, IS THAT THE

PHILIPPINES CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS FRIENDLY AND CONSERVATIVE; IT SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED INTERNALLY AND ENCOURAGED TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH ITS MOSLEM MINORITY.

2. SAQQAF, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THIS POSITION, HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO VISIT THE PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY THE MOSLEM AREAS, ON BECONFIDENTIAL

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HALF OF KING FAISAL. SAQQAF WILL LEAVE JIDDA THE MORNING

OF MARCH 6 AND SHOULD BE IN MANILA BY MARCH 10.

- 3. SAQQAF HAS TOLD US THAT THIS VISIT HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH ARAB OR OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES; THAT MANY WILL OPPOSE HIS TRIP AND WILL CERTAINLY TTACK SAUDI ARABIA IF HE RECOVENES AGAINST ANY AID TO THE MOSLEM REBELS.
- 4. SAQQAF, HOWEVER, REMINDED US THAT THERE IS AN ARAB PROVERB TO THE EFFECT THAT IF YOUR LEG IS HURT YOU TRY TO CURE IT. YOU CUT IT OFF ONLY IF IT IS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE SITUATION OF THE MOSLEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT BEYOND REPAIR. AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: MOSLEMS, POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CIVIL DISORDERS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, RELIGIOUS

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Subject: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER TO LOOK INTO PHILIPPINE- MOSLEM PROBLEM TAGS: PINS, SOCI, SA, RP, (SAQQAF, OMAR)
To: STATE MANILA

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005